

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

JOHNSON, Sam (Republican)
Representative, 3rd District, Texas
Elected 18May91 to 102nd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: San Antonio, Texas - 11 October 1930

Home: Plano, Texas

Marital Status: Married (Shirley) - 3 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Southern Methodist Univ, BBA, 1951; George Washington Univ, MSIA, 1974

Military: US Air Force, 1951-79; retired as Col; fighter pilot Korean and Vietnam; shot down over N. Vietnam on 16Apr66; spent 7 years as POW (4 in solitary confinement); flew with Thunderbirds; director of AF Fighter Weapons School; awarded 2 silver stars, 2 Legions of Merit, DFC, 4 Air Medals, 2 Purple Hearts, 3 Outstanding Unit Awards

Profession: Home builder

Political: Texas House, 1985-91. Won 18May91 special election with 53% of the vote to succeed Rep Steve Bartlett (R) who resigned. Reelected in 2000 with 72% and in 2002 with 74%.

Rep Johnson is a staunch conservative described as unassuming and non-combative. In the 105th Congress, criticized the Clinton Administration's opposition to buying more B-2s. In the 106th Congress, asserted that air power alone cannot win a war and that history confirms it. Strongly supported the F-22, asserting that it would provide air dominance compared to the aging F-15. Urged his colleagues to vote against normal trade relations with Vietnam out of respect for MIA/POWs. In the 107th Congress, cosponsored legislation to address the problems encountered in the 2000 Florida presidential election controversy, including the protection of voting rights of overseas military personnel and their families. Gave a press conference at which he explained why journalists should be banned from covering combat. In response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, said he would have preferred the US issue an unequivocal declaration of war against those perpetrating the attack. In addition to his interest in military matters, has focused on economic issues. In response to the Enron Corporation bankruptcy, helped craft legislation on pension reform. Has also worked to eliminate the Social Security earnings test that penalizes older workers who continue to earn a salary. In the area of tax policy, says he favors elimination of the income tax, the inheritance tax and the so-called marriage penalty. (Politics in America, 2004)

Additional: Co-Chairman and Charter member of the Air Force Caucus. Enjoys flying as a hobby; said "It's a great way to get away. It's why I stayed in the Air Force as long as I did." Serves as a regent of the Smithsonian Institution and is very interested in the future National Air and Space Museum annex near Dulles Airport.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE – Subc on Employer-Employee Relations - Chairman

WAYS AND MEANS